

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-01 SCS-03 L-02 EB-07 SCA-01 H-01

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P 031640Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3656

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, EC US

SUBJ: SEIZED U.S. TUNA VESSELS: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE

1. DURING FEB. 1 MEETING AT CONSULATE GENERAL, CAPTAIN NICOLAS LAVALOUI, MASTER OF CITY OF LISBON, AGAIN RAISED PROBLEM IMPOSED RADIO SILENCE AND PETTY THEFT BY ECUADOREAN SAILORS PLACED ON BOARD SEIZED VESSELS. CONCERNING LATTER PROBLEM, LAVALOUI MENTIONED SUCH MISSING ITEMS AS STOP WATCHES, NAVIGATIONAL DIVIDERS, AND PENCILS. HE OBSERVED THAT HE BELIEVED THEFT OCCURRED BECAUSE SAILORS WERE ON WATCH INSIDE RADIO SHACK.

2. CAPT. LAVALOUI ALSO SAID THAT HE AWARE OF PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC DISORDER IN MANTA (QUITO'S 696 AND 731) AND THAT HE FOR ONE WOULD NOT LIKE TAKE HIS SHIP INTO THAT "HOT-BOX" IF ASKED TO DO SO TO UNLOAD CATCH. SAID SOME MEMBERS OF HIS CREW MIGHT WALK OFF BOAT IF CITY OF LISBON HAD TO GO TO THAT TROUBLED PORT TO UNLOAD. (COMMENT: PEACE HAS RETURNED TO MANTA, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, AND DURING PERIOD OF UNREST THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE.)

3. EVENING OF FEB. CAPT. RICO, MASTER OF A. K. STROM, CALLED CONGEN URGING THAT EVERYTHING BE DONE TO GET BOATS RELEASED. I INFORMED CAPT. RICO THAT WE WANTED PROBLEM RESOLVED AS QUICKLY AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE AND WERE DOING ALL POSSIBLE TOWARD THIS END. CAPT. RICO

SAID THAT SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON IS BROTHER-IN-LAW OF OWNER A. K. STROM (RICO DID NOT GIVE NAME OF OWNER. ONLY INFO AT CONGEN IS THAT OWNER IS DELTA FISHERIES, INC., TERMINAL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA.) CAPT. RICO ENERGETIC IN HIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. MORNING OF FEB. 3, CAPT. RAFFLES, MASTER OF CALYPSO, CALLED CONGEN TO REPORT THAT ONE OF HIS CREW MEMBERS IS STIRRING UP CREW AND HAD PULLED KNIFE DURING HEATED ARGUMENT. CREW MEMBER'S NAME IS JOSE CORREA (UNSURE OF SPELLING) WHO IS FROM ANGOLA. CAPT. RAFFLES SAID HE WAS ASKING PORT CAPTAIN TO REMOVE THIS CREW MEMBER FROM VESSEL. COMPANY WILL PAY HIS RETURN FARE TO ANGOLA.

5. WE WILL AGAIN SEEK TO ELIMINATE PETTY THIEVERY AND RADIO SILENCE. CONGEN GOING TO SALINAS FEB. 3, RETURNING FEB. 4, AND TRAVELING TO QUITO FEB. 5 TO PROVIDE AMBASSADOR WITH FIRST-HAND REPORT. CONGEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED IN TRIP TO SALINAS BY MR. ARTHUR SOUSA, ZAPATA VICE-PRESIDENT, AND CONSUL IRA LEVY, ON TDY ASSIGNMENT FROM EMBASSY, WHO WILL REPLACE CONSUL KELLER AS USG REP IN SALINAS.
DEWITT

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